

## The Servants Opposition Mark 3:20-35

I'm not a golfer, if I can't play a sport I want to look across from me and see the opponent staring back at me. The Christian life is very much like a team sport, you are not simply trying to improve your score and better your walk with the Lord, there is very much an enemy, an Opposition that is directly working against you in your journey home. In chapter 3 we have seen the servant weighed down by the pressures of Tradition and the load of labor but now we see him confronted with opposition. This is to be expected in our life as well. In 15:18 if the world hate you know that it hated me before it hated you. The servant is no greater than their master, if they persecuted me they will persecute you. Every servant will encounter opposition in the service of the Lord, and this text prepares us for just such opposition.

### I. The Perpetrators of Opposition - So who will be the opposing team? Where will this opposition be coming from? On the football field they wear a different

color Jersey, Not so on the field of life. ~~So~~ after

### A. Opposition by Family + Friends - vs 21

the word friends could also be translated kinsmen as we see in vs 31. Those that were near to the Lord. "Lay hold on him" to seize him.

These were people that were close to the Lord and in our eyes might be the least suspected for opposition. Yet they were some of the ones attempting to stop the Lord Jesus. John 7:5.

This is to be expected according to Jesus! Matt 10:34

William Carey - Father of Modern missions was opposed by wife & bankrupted by friend Jonathan Edwards, after the Great awakening was crushed from church <sup>persecuted</sup> side split.

### B. Opposition by Foes - Never forget that there are some out and out right foes

to you going forward in your service to God! The scribes accused Jesus of working his miracles by the power of Satan. This is a heart rending accusation that reminds us that there is a world that is against us. They are enemies of Christ. Venomous foes that strike with piercing words at a moment's notice. John 16:2 Isn't that what we see today, where Christians are demonized.

"The Beast Made Church Persecuted as evil."

### II. The Paths of Opposition - We understand who the perpetrators of opposing are but how is it performed? What are the routes or paths of opposition. This text gives us some.



- 1) ...too often they look very much like us. Often the attacks of the opposition come as ambushes because we do not suspect them to attack us. Such is the case with the Lord Jesus who saw...
- 2) John 7:5 For neither did his brethren believe in him.
- 3) Matthew 10:34-37 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.
- 4) ...personally I have experienced stinging opposition from the closest of relatives over the cause of Christ. But never forget that you are not alone in your opposition. You are walking the way of the Cross, partaking in the fellowship of His sufferings.
- 5) John 16:2 They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. On April 18th, five Muslims entered a Christian publishing company and killed three believers in the southeastern province of Malatya in Turkey. Two of the Christian victims were Turks, converted from Islam, and the third was a German citizen who had lived in Turkey for 10 years – killed for their faith, and I can't even begin to enter into how they were killed for their faith. Four of the attackers admitted that the killings were motivated, listen, 'by both nationalistic and religious feelings'. They believed that they were doing God a service to kill His servants!

1) ...too often they look very much like us. Often the attacks of the opposition come as ambushes because we do not suspect them to attack us. Such is the case with the Lord Jesus who saw ...

2) John 2 For neither did his brethren believe in him.  
3) Matthew 10:34-37 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth; I came not to send peace, but a sword.

For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the hunter against his mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they who love him from his brethren. Let the Lord father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he that loveth son or daughter or man, shall not be worthy of me.

4) ...personally I have experienced stinging opposition from the closest of relatives over the cause of Christ. But never forget that you are not alone in your opposition. You are walking the way of the Cross, partaking in the fellowship of His sufferings.

2) John 16:2 They shall put you out of the synagogue; yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. On April 18th, five Muslims entered a Christian publishing company and killed three believers in the southeastern province of Malaysia in Turkey. Two of the Christian victims were Turks, converted from Islam, and the third was a German citizen who had lived in Turkey for 10 years - killed for their faith, and I can't even begin to enter into how they were killed for their faith. Four of the attackers admitted that the killings were motivated, 'by both nationalistic and religious feelings'. They believed that they were doing God's service to kill His servants!

insight into this opposition.

A. An Accusation of Derangement - The family and friends said "He is beside himself." That means "He is out of his mind."

They are saying he's crazy. In chapter 3 alone we see the threat of death in vs 6, the strain of the needs upon him, the crowd in vs 8 could not even eat. These friends came to carry him away in the Paddy wagon for his religious zeal. He may have been somewhat of an embarrassment to them. We have got to cool of this religious fanatic in the family. Usually if your family wants you to get just enough religious to stay out of jail.

B. An Accusation of Demonism - The Jews

did not accuse him of being insane but under direct demonic control. They said He cast out demons by Beelzebub which means the Lord of Dunc, Flies or of Filth, another name for Satan. They accused this man that went about only doing good of doing it under demonic power. They were so hard hearted toward the Lord that no matter the results they demonized him. Their accusation was from out right wickedness, hissing demonic, out right wickedness, which Jesus Respon.

III. The Pinnacle of Opposition -

The wickedness of their accusation brought out a haunting and terrifying response from the Lord Jesus. A response



that is often mis-understood we will try to

A. A Simple Parable vs 23-27 Jesus is giving a logical and simple parable to undermine their wicked accusation. Jesus ministry thus far has been clear as 15:38 Satan doesn't cast out demons, Satan desires to control men through demonic power not set them free. Jesus life was that of victory over Satan. He had the power to bind the strong man.

B. A Sound Principal - What an important principal for our every day lives. In our home life, if we are at odds w each other it will crumble, in our church life, our church will not stand and go forward for Gods glory if we are divided against ourselves.

C. A Serious Pronouncement - vs 28-29 The Unpardonable Sin as it is called.. a last of confusion. What is it? Blaspheming Holy Spirit? Attributing works of God to Satan? Look at the context. Jesus was being received by common folk who were entertaining the idea that he is Messiah. The scribes refused and hardened their heart. In the wider context, John Baptist came and they rejected and killed. Jesus rejected and killed. Stephen. Acts 7: 51 yea always resist the Holy Ghost, Killed, Time + Time again they hardened their heart. Reject God Father God son + God HG. It was the end of the line

vs 22 saying

- 1) 1 John 3:8 ...For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.